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Culture of peace

Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Jordan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Sudan, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolutions 36/55 of 25 November 1981, in which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, 56/6 of 9 November 2001, on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, 58/128 of 19 December 2003, on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, 59/23 of 11 November 2004, on the promotion of interreligious dialogue, 61/17 of 20 November 2006, on the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009, 62/155 of 18 December 2007, on human rights and cultural diversity, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, 63/181 of 18 December 2008, on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, 64/81 of 7 December 2009, on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and 65/5 of 20 October 2010, on World Interfaith Harmony Week,

Recalling also its resolution 63/22 of 13 November 2008, on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and the leading role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

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Cultural Organization in the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, in 2010,

Recalling further its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009, on The Alliance of Civilizations, in which it welcomed the efforts to promote greater understanding and respect among people from different civilizations, cultures and religions,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that dialogue among civilizations can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, the promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Emphasizing the importance of culture for development in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as stated in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly,[2]

Noting the various initiatives at the national, regional and international levels for enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated,[3]

Noting also the commemoration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010,[4]

Encouraging activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance social stability, respect for diversity, and mutual respect in diverse communities, and create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Affirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders including, in particular, women and youth, in the interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at the various levels,

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[2] Resolution 65/1.

[3] Third Global Inter-Media Dialogue, Bali, Indonesia, 7 and 8 May 2008; World Conference on Dialogue, Madrid, 16-18 July 2008; Third Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, Astana, 1 and 2 July 2009, with the participation and technical assistance of the United Nations system; Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue, Seoul, 23-25 September 2009; Seventh Rhodes Forum, "Dialogue of Civilizations", Rhodes, Greece, 8-12 October 2009; Fifth Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue, Perth, Australia, 28-30 October 2009; Parliament of the World's Religions, Melbourne, Australia, 3-9 December 2009; Third Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 27-29 May 2010 and other initiatives taken by the United Nations system, as described in the report of the Secretary-General; Sixth Asia-Europe Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue, Toledo/Madrid, 7-9 April 2010; Sixth Regional Interfaith Dialogue, Perth, Australia, 28-30 October 2010; and other initiatives undertaken at the national, regional and international levels.

[4] Resolution 62/90.

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace,

1. *Affirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace;[5]

3. *Notes* the continuing work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on interreligious dialogue in the context of its efforts to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, as well as activities related to a culture of peace, and welcomes its focus on concrete action at the global, regional and subregional levels;

4. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations and emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

6. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held on 4 and 5 October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions;

7. *Acknowledges* the holding of the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development in Manila from 16 to 18 March 2010 and notes, inter alia, the Manila Declaration and Program of Action on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development which highlights the importance of enhancing efforts to promote respect for the diversity of religions, beliefs, cultures and societies;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Welcomes* the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures marked by, inter alia, a special event held on 21 April

[5] A/65/269.

2010 at United Nations Headquarters, with the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the lead agency for the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, to promote the action plan for the celebration of the Year, and of the support of Member States and all organizations and institutions, including civil society organizations, demonstrating their firm commitment to intercultural dialogue, including interreligious dialogue, in the celebration of the Year;

11. *Invites* Member States, following the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, 2010, to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

12. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of this present resolution and, in coordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to further solicit views of Member States on the possibility of proclaiming a United Nations decade for interreligious and intercultural dialogue and cooperation for peace, building on the information contained in the reports of the Secretary-General submitted under the agenda item entitled "Culture of peace" at the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions and the relevant initiatives taken in the course of 2011.